

# 10-10 Staff News

School Board Meeting Recap »

November 19, 2019

## Pioneer MS Bond Project

*Board approves Pioneer schematic design following staff input sessions*

Following months of design planning and research, site visits to regional schools and staff input meetings, last night school board members approved Pioneer Middle School schematic designs. Visit the district's website and click on the Bond Update page to see the Pioneer Middle School floor and site plans.

Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith reported construction will begin in September and take approximately two years to complete. The bulk of the project is focused on the 1950s wing of the building not impacted by the 1990 fire which damaged the north wing of the school.

The project modernizes classrooms, relocates the school's entrance closer to Bridge St. for improved line of site to the main doors, adds dozens of parking spaces, creates a parent drop off and pick up lane and replaces operating systems for heating, cooling and electricity. Additional physical education spaces and expanding band, choir and orchestra classrooms are also highlights of the approved design.



**Dr. Wade Smith**  
Superintendent

"The schematic designs approved by the Board deliver on every one of our pre-bond promises. We have expanded access to performing and visual arts, made safety improvements, enlarged physical education and cafeteria spaces to accommodate current student populations, improved science and CTE classrooms and upgraded energy efficiency systems to reduce operating costs."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent



## Board Meeting Highlights

### APPROVED »»

Minutes from the Nov. 5, 2019 regular study meeting, personnel report, extracurricular athletic contracts, Nov. 19 accounts payable, October financial report, Resolution 14-2019: Certification of 2020 Excess Property Taxes and Resolution 15-2019: Board members' attendance at WSSDA Annual Conference.

### ACTION ITEMS »»

In the action portion of the school board meeting, the following items were approved:

- Pioneer MS schematic design
- Naming of the early learning center (Walla Walla Center for Children and Families)
- Policy 2nd Readings:
  - 3207, 3211, 3423, 6100 and 6700

### DR HAMPSON HONORED »»

Tuesday night retiring school board member Dr. David Hampson was honored for his service. Dr. Hampson spent six years on the school board. He was actively involved with the School-based Health, Equity and Access and Administrative Policy committees.

### ENROLLMENT REPORT »»

Enrollment for November is 5696 FTE, up three students from last month. The district is on track to meet its enrollment budget target of 5608.

### 2019-2020 FUND BALANCE »»

Fiscal Services Director Nancy Taylor provided school board members an update on the district's fund balance. She says it will meet the 8% board requirement and maintain \$873,000 in unrestricted funds.

### School board approves name for new learning center

School board members took another step forward last night in the repurposing of Blue Ridge Elementary by approving the naming of the facility as the *Walla Walla Center for Children and Families*.

Board members followed Board Policy 6970 throughout the naming process. They also considered S.G. Miner Center for Children and Families, Blue Mountain Center for Children and Families and Dorion Center for Children and Families. Miner was the first school teacher in Walla Walla and Dorion was the only female member of an overland expedition sent by the Pacific Fur Company to the Pacific NW in 1810.

**EMPLOYMENT ...****Classified:**

SCOTT ADAMS | BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION

DARREN CROWELL | BUS DRIVER, TRANSPORTATION

**RESIGNATIONS ...****Certificated:**

KRISTINA CARNEY | JROTC, 3 MONTHS

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...****Classified:**

ANDREA CORTINAS | EDISON, 6 YRS • JAN-JUNE 2020

MEGAN PAUL | WA-HI, 6 YRS • DEC 2019-FEB 2020

**Quote of the Week***"Change is the end result of all true learning."*

Leo Buscaglia

## Golden Onion Award

### Local educators recipients of \$1000 grants

During last night's school board meeting, Assistant Superintendent Chris Gardea recognized five outstanding teachers for being named Golden Onion award recipients. Each of these educators received \$1000 to use for classroom expenses and professional development. Mike and Sue Gillespie established the Golden Onion award nine years ago to support teacher development. Teachers are selected through a competitive application process.

**Photo with 2019 recipients:**

L-R: Board President Ruth Ladderud, Amy Kasenga - Garrison MS, Laura Bertinelli - Wa-Hi, Claudia Saldivar - Edison, McKenzie Bostwick - Sharpstein, Lori Gillin - Preschool, Sue Gillespie and Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith.

**Bond Update**

Superintendent Smith reported S&K Mountain Construction completed the final project close-out items officially finalizing Berney's roof and HVAC project. Footings were poured this week on the Wa-Hi Science building. Look for a video update on the project coming out soon. Pioneer MS project planning continues. Schematic designs are now completed and posted on the district's website. Construction will begin in September. Wenaha Group, in cooperation with the district, completed Educational Specifications for the Lincoln High School project and were approved by the School Board. Construction will begin in September 2021.

**Superintendent Evaluation Process**

School board members reviewed the timeline and process used for evaluating Superintendent Smith. Board members use a three-part evaluation tool based on professional performance standards, district goals measurements and CEE survey data. Board members will finalize the evaluation in March.

**Elementary Transition Plan**

Progress continues as the district repurposes Blue Ridge into the Walla Walla Center for Children and Families next school year. Superintendent Smith said the initial planning is a three phase process. First is placing existing Blue Ridge students at their new schools, next is reassigning Blue Ridge staff and third is moving materials and supplies. Superintendent Smith said the goal is to inform Blue Ridge families and staff prior to winter break.

**High School Representative**

Jaden Bergevin, the Walla Walla High School student representative to the school board, reported the Key Club's Trunk or Treat supported our local food bank, music students are receiving state accolades and Winter Ball is Dec. 14 (adult volunteers are needed). She also encouraged everyone to see the Wa-Hi drama. Details below:

**Wa-Hi Drama - "The Matchmaker"**

This hilarious comedy is based on Hello Dolly.

- Shows: Nov. 21-23 (7 p.m.) / Nov. 23 (2 p.m.)
- Adults are \$12 and Students/Seniors are \$6
- Tickets: Wa Hi ASB office during business hours, online ([intouch.wwps.org](http://intouch.wwps.org)) and one hour prior to curtain.